

Technology in Rural Transportation

A recent study documented more than eighty proven, cost-effective, “low-tech” solutions to rural transportation needs, most developed or implemented by local transportation professionals. One of these solutions is outlined below:



Learn all about the simple solutions on the Internet at <http://inform.enterprise.prog.org>

The simple solutions report is available from Hau To at (503) 892-2533, or email: to@crc-corp.com

Smart Parking Meters

Overall goal:

To increase parking meter revenue by resetting parking meters when each car leaves a parking space.

Technical approach:

Meters contain sensing technology to determine when a vehicle has left a parking space. It then resets the meter to zero, requiring each new driver to put money in the meter. Programming options can also enforce the maximum amount of time allowed in a parking space and will record when the meter last expired. A hand held computer is used to collect information from the meters. Information is then downloaded to a PC, which is used to process information about the meters, including the average duration of parking, most popular times for the meter and duration of unpaid parking. To defray criticism of the meters, mostly from local retailers, drivers are given five free minutes when they enter the space and five grace minutes after the paid time expires.

Current status:

Fifty-eight meters were converted to include sensor technology and tested for a one-year trial.

Location / geographic scope:

The system has been piloted in the Borough of New Hope, Pennsylvania. Meters with sensors can be used anywhere a parking meter is appropriate.

Agencies involved:

Borough of New Hope Police Department.

Cost information:

The equipment cost \$2,200 per quarter for all 58 meters for a 5-year lease. The meters can be purchased for approximately \$4,000 to \$5,000 each.



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Key contacts:

Chief Robert Brobson, Borough of New Hope. (215) 862-3033
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Have goals been achieved?

Meter revenues have increased by more than 50 percent since the new meters were installed, which more than covers the increased cost of the meters.

Solution timeline:

Approximately one sixth of New Hope’s meters have been converted. The remaining 250 meters have yet to be replaced due to new borough council. The project is on hold for the future.

